



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,738	03/02/2006	Hidekazu Suzuki	28951.1173	7702
53067	7590	08/29/2008	EXAMINER	
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP			LEE, MICHAEL	
1330 CONNECTICUT AVE., NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			2622	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/29/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/567,738	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	M. Lee	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsunoda (JP02002185874A).

Regarding claim 1, Tsunoda discloses a command transmission means (11) and IEEE 1394 transmission line (21a), and a switching control means (31). However, Tsunoda does not disclose that the IEEE 1394 transmission line is connected to plural external devices as claimed. In any event, since the IEEE 1394 transmission standard enables many devices to communicate with each other on the same bus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to include more than one external electronic devices into Tsunoda so that the versatility of the system could be increased. As well known in the art, external devices connected to an IEEE 1394 port can be addressed and controlled individually.

Regarding claims 2-3, see rejections above.

Regarding claim 4, the control means 31 in Tsunoda is intended to send different control commands, such as the ON and Off commands, to the external devices. The durations and repetitions of these commands can be changed accordingly. It would have been a matter of obvious design choice.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, the analog terminal 21b in Tsunoda is an analog video signal, which is being monitored by control means 31.

Regarding claim 15, the external device 12 inherently includes the detection means as claimed because it needs to detect the command signals from the control means 31.

3. Claims 7-14, and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsunoda (JP02002185874A) in view of Reisman (US2003/0229900A1).

Regarding claims 7-14, and 16-19, in addition of rejection above, Tsunoda does not disclose the digital lines as claimed; instead, he claims an analog line as aforementioned. In any event, Reisman, from the similar field of endeavor, teaches that transmission lines or standards such as HDMI, DVI, USB, IEEE1394, baseband, S video are interchangeable with each other (paragraph 0086). Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify Tsunoda to replace the analog line with the HDMI digital lines of Reisman to perform the well known functions as claimed.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Takano et al. (6,826,776) shows an IEEE 1394 transmission line.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Lee whose telephone number 571-272-7349. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran, can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/M. Lee/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622